

# Official Minutes for Webb County Commissioners Court Meeting

Monday, November 10, 2003 at 1:00 PM

(With corrections approved 11-24-2003 in bold and parenthesis)

- Item No. 1      Call to order by Judge Louis H. Bruni  
Let it be remembered that a regular meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 1:00 p.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:
- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Louis H. Bruni   | County Judge         |
| Jerry Vasquez    | Commissioner, Pct. 1 |
| Judith Gutierrez | Commissioner, Pct. 2 |
| Felix Velasquez  | Commissioner, Pct. 3 |
| David Cortez     | Commissioner, Pct. 4 |
- Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 6 of November 2003. Present also were Ms. Nora Elia Prado, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court.
- Item No. 2      Roll Call – Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk
- Cmr. Cortez motioned to move up Item No. 8 after Item No. 3. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.
- Item No. 3      Pledge of Allegiance – Led by family of Sgt. Michael Paul Barrera
- Item No. 8      Moment of Silence for Sgt. Michael Paul Barrera, first Laredo soldier killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Mrs. Hilda Barrera, mother of Sgt. Michael Paul Barrera, replaced the Blue Star banners with Gold Star banners to reflect that someone from Webb County had died while serving in the military.
- Item No. 5      Approval of bills, payroll and monthly reports
- Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, presented his monthly report to the Court and stated that he would like to highlight some item in his report:

- Page 1, \$53,342.32 paid to the Law Offices of Cavazos, Morales, Tijerina & Montemayor. He stated that the firm has been very successful in collecting delinquent taxes
- Page 2, 17 requisitions totaling \$201,720.03 for Mercy Health Center from the Indigent Services Program
- Page 4, shows the unaudited fund balance at \$7.6 million (15.5%)
- Page 24, shows the sales tax report at \$225,000 under budget

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to accept the Auditor's Report as submitted. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Commissioners Court Executive Administrator, advised Court that he has met with Mr. Juan Sanchez, Laredo Veterans Coalition, to eliminate duplication of services between the assistance given to veterans through their office and that of the Veterans Service Office. He stated that the criteria for assistance had been established by Mr. Jesus Cantu, Veterans Service Officer, and all payments for assistance would be made to the vendor instead of the veteran. Mr. Jesus Cantu stated that all payments would be made through Request for Payment after approval and pledges are made. He stated that the City of Laredo approved \$45,000 to the Laredo Veterans Coalition for assistance for veterans who reside within the city limits only.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to accept reports as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

#### Item No. 4      Approval of minutes

Cmr. Velasquez stated that on Item No. 5 on page 4, the department in question was the Payroll department not the Accounts Payable department. He stated that on Item No. 12 on page 5, he did not want taxpayer monies to be used to pay for outside attorneys. Cmr. Vasquez stated that what was stated in the minutes was what Cmr. Velasquez had stated.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve minutes with corrections presented. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that for Item No. 9 on page 3, the agenda item should read "Feast of Sharing" instead of "Sister Sharing." (Please note that the agenda posted showed Item No. 9 as being a presentation on "Sister Sharing" not "Feast of Sharing.")

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

#### Item No. 6      Communications

Cmr. Vasquez stated that he would like for payments made on behalf of veterans through the Veterans Service Office be expedited.

Cmr. Gutierrez read a proclamation for "Farm City Week" for the week of November 21<sup>st</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003. She stated that an item in regards to this proclamation would be on the next Commissioners Court Agenda.

Item No. 7            Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item No. 9            Discussion and possible action to establish protocol concerning dedication plaques for Webb County Public Buildings.

Judge Bruni stated that this would not only be for Webb County Public Buildings but for all projects funded through County monies. He recommended that the County establish protocol to see how plaque will read before approval is given so that any corrections can be made.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Cortez stated that that plaques for three buildings constructed during his previous tenure were never put up after he lost the re-election. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that this has happened when one leaves for office but feels that person who started project as well as person who was in office when completed should be included in plaque.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 10           Discussion and possible action to amend Webb County drug testing policy so as to maintain records of Webb County tested employees under lock and key at the Risk Management Department.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 11           Discussion and possible action to approve optional technology fee for e-filing for Webb County. (Presentation by Berring Point)

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that there was no back-up on this item or information as to how this would work. A representative from Berring Point (name was not stated) stated that a \$2.00 fee could be implemented to offset the cost of electronic filing (software, hardware, etc.).

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to defer item. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 12      Discussion and possible action to approve Capital Outlay list for Certificates of Obligation Series 2003.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to defer item. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 13      Discussion and possible action to appoint the County Judge's designee to serve on the Border Region MHMR Community Center Board of Trustees.

Judge Bruni motioned to appoint Cmr. Jerry Vasquez as his designee. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 14      Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution to support and participate in the South Texas Development Council for the period October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 15      Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution confirming the appointment of Commissioners Gerardo Vasquez and David Cortez to serve on the Board of Directors of the South Texas Development Council for the period October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 16      Discussion and possible action to rescind action taken on March 24, 2003, the acceptance of the donation of a 10.5 acre tract of land located off of U.S. Highway 359, from Home-Mart, Inc. a Texas Corporation and 359 East-Royal Land, L.C. a Texas Limited Liability Company, for the construction of a Self-Help Center and/or Community Park.

Item No. 17      Discussion and possible action to accept the donation of a 12.5843 acre tract of land located off of Highway 359, from "Home-Mart, Inc., a Texas Corporation, and 359 East-Royal Land, L.C., a Texas Limited Liability Company" (10.7525 acres), "Brothers Materials, Ltd., a Texas Limited Partnership" (0.6158 acres), and "Vinateria Ranch Company, LTD., a Texas Limited Partnership" (1.2160 acres), the site to be used for the construction of a Self-Help Center and/or community park which must be constructed within two years or the property reverts back to the grantor/donor and any matters incident thereto.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that the reason for this change was that the property listed in Item No. 16 was located in a flood zone but they were able to locate another property to be donated.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 18      Discussion and possible action to appoint Mr. Frank Salinas as interim Indigent Health Care Director effective September 17, 2003.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that he had several concerns about the policies and procedures in this office but that Mr. Salinas has filled in and taken the difficult task of turning the department around. He also stated that he would like to advertise for this position. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, advised Court that an item would need to be placed on the next agenda to advertise position.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to appoint Mr. Salinas as interim Director and compensate accordingly. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 19      Discussion and possible action to initiate formulation of Interlocal agreement for the purchase of playground equipment in the amount of \$25,000 to each of two Laredo Independent School District Elementary Schools to be designated by the Commissioners Court.

Cmr. Cortez stated that the schools to receive this equipment would be MacDonald Elementary and Bruni Elementary.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion with discussion.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, advised Court that the monies used were not bond proceeds but general fund monies. Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Commissioners Court Executive Administrator, stated that the monies had been allocated during the budget process for library expansion but monies from bond proceeds were substituted, there by freeing up this money.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 20      Discussion and possible action to assign to the firm of Rolando Rios the re-defining of Webb County Voter Precincts that would be split by the proposed re-districting plan.

Cmr. Cortez stated that the County needed to be prepared regardless of the possible outcome regarding redistricting. He stated that this would not exceed \$4,500.00.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Mr. Rolando Rios stated that 7 voting precincts in Webb County would be affected. Cmr. Gutierrez requested that the Court support joining the lawsuit against the redistricting plan and have Mr. Rios represent the County in that lawsuit. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, advised Court that item would need to be placed on next agenda.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 21      Discussion and possible action to enter into the following third party funding contracts:

**General Fund**

Texas State Guard	\$3,000.00
Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center	\$90,000.00
Border Area Nutrition Council	\$45,000.00
Laredo Regional Food Bank	\$10,000.00
Bethany House of Laredo	\$12,500.00

**Hotel Motel Fund**

Webb County Heritage Foundation	\$50,000.00
Laredo Little Theatre	\$5,000.00
Laredo Center for the Arts	\$10,000.00
Laredo Philharmonic Chorale	\$6,000.00
Washington Birthday Celebration Assoc.	\$10,000.00
Border Olympics Inc.	\$10,000.00
Laredo Children's Museum Inc.	\$30,000.00
Princess Pocahontas Council Inc.	\$ 5,000.00
LULAC No. 7	\$6,000.00
Laredo International Fair and Exposition	\$4,000.00

Salon de la Fama Latino Americano del Deporte (Latin-American Sports Hall)	\$11,000.00
Streets of Laredo Urban Mall Association	\$12,000.00
Mexican Cultural Institute	\$10,000.00

and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that the Court had previously approved \$10,000 for LULAC No. 7 to match the monies allotted to LULAC No. 12. Mr. Raul Casso, County Judge's Chief of Staff, stated that the correction would be made.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 22 Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (November 1, 2003 through October 31, 2004) equipment maintenance agreement with Eastman Kodak Company to provide maintenance support for a "Kodak Digital Science Scanner 1500 D" utilized by the Planning Department at a cost of NINE HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS (\$940.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Planning Department Account Number 010-0102-6402 Repairs and Maintenance - Equipment]

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 23 Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004) software Maintenance Agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ERSI) to provide software maintenance support for the Mapping and 911 software utilized by the Planning Department at a cost of FIVE THOUSAND AND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$5,700.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Planning Department, Account Number 010-0102-6402 Repairs and Maintenance Equipment]

- Item No. 24 Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (November 1, 2003 through October 31, 2004) equipment maintenance agreement with Hewlett-Packard Express Services to provide maintenance support for a "HP Design Jet 800 PS Printer" utilized by

the Planning Department at a cost of SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$725.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Planning Department, Account Number 010-0102-6402 Repairs and Maintenance Equipment]

Item No. 25 Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (November 1, 2003 through October 31, 2004) burglar alarm service and maintenance agreement with LAREDO ALARM to provide burglar alarm services at the Webb County Morgue at a monthly cost of TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$25.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. The total cost of the Agreement is THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00). [Requested by Webb County Purchasing Department Account # 001-0106-6401 Repairs and Maintenance Buildings]

Item No. 26 Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (November 1, 2003 through October 31, 2004) Fire alarm service and maintenance agreement with LAREDO ALARM to provide fire alarm services at the Webb County Morgue at monthly cost of FORTY DOLLARS (\$40.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. The total cost of the Agreement is FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$480.00). [Requested by Webb County Purchasing Department Account # 001-0106-6401 Repairs and Maintenance Buildings]

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve Item No. 23, No. 24, No. 25 and No. 26 as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Velasquez stepped out.

Item No. 27 Discussion and possible action to enter into a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the Laredo Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Parks and Wildlife (Park Ranger) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division (Game Warden) for the Webb County Sheriff to assist the Texas Parks and Wildlife Service in providing law enforcement response and services at the Lake Casa Blanca International State Park. [Requested by Webb County Sheriff]

Item No. 28 Discussion and possible action to accept 29 rights-of-way, out of Pueblo Nuevo Subdivision and one (1) out of Ranchitos IV Los



Minerales Annex and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

- Item No. 29      Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (September 12, 2003 through September 11, 2004) equipment maintenance agreement with Professional Document Packaging to provide maintenance support for a Powis Parker Fastback Binder and Powis Spine Printer utilized by the Planning Department at a total cost of EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY DOLLARS (\$890.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Planning Department, Account Number 010-0102-6402 Repairs and Maintenance Equipment]
- Item No. 30      Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004) Equipment Service Agreement with Record Systems, LLC. to provide equipment maintenance of the Kardex Lektriever filing system located at the Webb County Attorney's Office at a cost of NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$975.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by County Attorney Account Number 001-1101-6402 (Repairs and Maintenance Equipment)]
- Item No. 31      Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (October 15, 2003 through October 15, 2004) software subscription agreement with Sirius Computer Solutions, Inc. to provide software maintenance to be utilized by the MIS Department for the iSeries AS/400 at a cost of TWENTY THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWO DOLLARS (\$23,102.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by MIS Department, Account Number 001-0500-6402 Repairs and Maintenance Equipment]
- Item No. 32      Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004) software maintenance agreement with TriMin Systems, Inc. to provide software maintenance support utilized by the County Clerk's Office on the AS/400 at a cost of TEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$10,500.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by MIS Department, Account Number 001-0500-6402 Repairs and Maintenance Equipment]

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve Item No. 27, No. 28, No. 29, No. 30, No. 31 and No. 32 as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Velasquez not present for voting.

Item No. 33 Discussion and possible action to authorize a resolution for the submission of a Texas Community Development Program application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for \$500,000 under the Colonia EDAP Fund Program with \$10,000 in-kind contribution from the Economic Development Department and authorizing the Honorable Louis H. Bruni, County Judge, to execute all relevant documents.

Item No. 34 Discussion and possible action to accept a \$350,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women for the implementation of Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange Program. This project will support supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange options for families with a history of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve Item No. 33 and No. 34 as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that a back-up for all items **(should be)** included in the agenda to avoid unnecessary questions. Judge Bruni stated that all items should have a back up or a memo explaining why there is no back-up. Cmr. Cortez requested that a memo be circulated to all department heads regarding back-up since not all are present. Mr. Raul Casso, County Judge's Chief of Staff, stated that all department heads have been advised that they must be present at all meetings or send a representative and he sees no reason for their absence.

Item No. 35 Discussion and possible action to request authorization to repair the Webb County Juvenile Detention Center as necessary for recertification. [Capital Outlay Certificates of Obligation Series 2003]

Item No. 36 Discussion and possible action to fill slot # 2203, Project Coordinator, at an annual salary of \$42,733 effective November 10, 2003.

Item No. 37 Discussion and possible action awarding Supplemental Agreement # 1 to the existing contract with Dannenbaum Engineers for the inspection of six construction projects of the Texas Water Development Board water and sewer improvements at El Cenizo and Rio Bravo in the amount of \$507,442. They will be inspecting the 2.4 MGD water

treatment plant, expansion of the waste water treatment plant to 1.5 MGD, water line replacement in Rio Bravo, water line replacement in El Cenizo, lift stations and force mains in El Cenizo, 200,000 gallon elevated tank in El Cenizo and the replacement of water lines in Rio Bravo. [Funded by Texas Water Development Board grants and loans]

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve Item No. 35, No. 36 and No. 37 as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion with discussion.

Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, County Engineer, stated that in regards to Item No. 36, the slot has not been filled and would take approximately 2-3 weeks to fill. He stated that his intention is to promote someone within the County. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that County Policy does not require the posting of vacancies, only that a qualified person be hired. He stated that he would bring an item before the Court to modify the current policy to have all departments under Commissioners Court post job openings. Cmr. Velasquez stated that though the Human Resources Department has been created, it has not been funded and hopes to have department up and running by 2004. He stated that job posting should be done internally and publicly to allow the residents to apply for any positions they feel they qualify for. He stated that he has met with Juvenile Detention Center officials in regards to Item No. 35 and has been advised that "bare bone" repairs. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, recommended that the Court set a limit for the repairs to be done. Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Commissioners Court Executive Administrator, stated that the repairs should not exceed \$81,300 from Capital Outlay. Total amount incorporated into motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 38      Discussion and possible action to fill slot # 038, Custodian, at \$8.25 per hour effective November 10, 2003.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 39      Discussion and possible action to fill the following slots effective November 11, 2003:

Slot # 2053	part-time Substitute Teacher at \$7.04 per hour
Slot # 1652	full-time AA Teacher at \$11.40 per hour
Slot # 1791	full-time AA Teacher at \$11.40 per hour
Slot # 1694	part-time Substitute Teacher at \$7.04 per hour

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 40      Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of five (5) Microsoft Software licenses in the amount of \$1,982. [Account # 001-4101-6402 Repairs and Maintenance Equipment]

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 41      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to solicit bids for repairs and/or the replacement of broadcasting equipment for Webb County Commissioners Courtroom, and any other matters incident thereto. [Capital Outlay Certificates of Obligation Series 2003]

Cmr. Cortez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Mr. Raul Casso, County Judge's Chief of Staff, stated that the total would be approximately \$300,000. Judge Bruni stated that a cap of \$320,000 would be put into place.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 47      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to award/reject bid # 2003-45 "Justice of the Peace Courthouse Precinct 2 Place 1 & 2". [Account # 679-8105-8103 Building Improvements Certificates of Obligation Series 2001 and Account # 689-1046-8601 Construction in Progress Certificates of Obligation Series 2002]

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, requested that the Court table this item since the six (6) bids that were received are still under review.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to defer item. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 42      Discussion and possible action to authorize an agreement with J-Star Construction for the removal of the old fence, the purchase of fence materials, and to install a new fence at the Webb County Golf Course by force account. [Account # 001-0105-6032-04 Storm Damage 06/03]

- Item No. 43      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to purchase 65 air conditioning units from Freidrich Air Conditioning Company through a state contract in the amount of \$19,050 for the Community Action Agency. [Account # 911-4227-7018 Heating/Cooling Systems Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program]
- Item No. 44      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to purchase three (3) Personal Computers through the Department of Information Resources (DIR) state contract # 94-00151 for the Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Judge Alfredo Garcia Jr. in the amount of \$4,574.97 from IBM. [Account # 016-1043-8801 Capital Outlay Justice Court Technology Fund]
- Item No. 45      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to purchase one (1) speed trailer and one (1) 12" basic sign from Ingram Technologies in the amount of \$4,790 for the Law Enforcement Center. [Account # 315-2040-6224 Minor Apparatus & Tools Local Law Enforcement Block Grant]
- Item No. 46      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to approve and award an Electronic Monitoring Service Agreement from Protell in the amount of \$5 per day per individual for the Pre-Trial Services Department and to authorize the County Judge to execute any and all documents. [Account # 001-1205-6022 Professional Services]
- Item No. 48      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to solicit bids for improvements to the Tex-Mex Building at the corner of Washington Street and Convent.
- Item No. 49      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to solicit request for proposals for food commodities for the Law Enforcement Center and Community Action Agency.
- Item No. 50      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to purchase homeland security items approved by the TEEX (Texas Engineering Extension Service) through the Domestic Preparedness Assessment Grant Agreement No. 48479 which awarded \$213,153 to Webb County departments directly involved with domestic preparedness/homeland security measures.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve Item No. 42, No. 43, No. 44, No. 46, No. 48, No. 49 and No. 50 as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, County Engineer, stated that Item No. 48 was currently going thru a process in regards to asbestos problems but would be safe for employees. Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Commissioners Court Executive Administrator, stated that Item No. 42 would be paid with monies from pending claims since the insurance agency has stated that the fence would not be covered by them. Cmr. Gutierrez requested that the County Attorney pursue this matter with the insurance agency since the adjuster had advised Ms. Juanita Puente, former Risk Manager, that the fence would be covered and to get it repair in front of several witnesses. Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, stated that he would bring a report before the Court in regards to the monies being collected by the J. P.'s for the Technology Fee.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 51      Discussion and possible action regarding a claim submitted by the Self-Help center for a theft which occurred on or about March 4, 2003.  
[Account # 001-0105-9201 Claims Paid]

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Ms. Amy Palacios, Interim Risk Manager, stated that a digital camera valued at \$900 was stolen after the office was left unlocked and unattended.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 52      Discussion and possible action to establish amount of money for which Interim Risk Manger or Risk Management Department may settle claims without further authorization from Commissioners Court.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to continue current policy. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion with discussion.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that the current policy allows the Risk Management Department to settle claims under \$5,000 without authorization from Commissioners Court. He recommended that the Court continue the current policy. Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent to continue current policy.

Item No. 53      Discussion and possible action regarding the property damage claim of the District Attorney's Office for a motor vehicle accident which occurred on or about June 7, 2003. [Account # 001-0105-9201 Claims Paid]

Ms. Amy Palacios, Interim Risk Manager, requested that the Court table this item.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to table item. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 54      Discussion and possible action regarding the property damage claim of CAA-EL Aguila for the vandalism of a motor vehicle which occurred on or about June 14, 2003. [Account # 001-0105-9201 Claims Paid]

Cmr. Cortez motioned to approve item as submitted with discussion. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Cortez stated that this occurred after the driver went into a restaurant and left the keys in the vehicle. The vehicle was then vandalized and burglarized. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, recommended that the Court consider passing some of the financial responsibility to the persons responsible for the equipment or vehicles when something like this happens. He recommended that the Court approve the repairs suggested by Risk Management.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent to accept County Attorney's recommendation.

Item No. 55      Discussion and possible action regarding the property damage claim of the County Attorney's Office for a motor vehicle accident which occurred on or about August 1, 2003. [Account # 001-0105-9201 Claims Paid]

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Cortez advised public that the reason behind his visiting County offices was to see where office space is available. He stated that he is trying to get all the employees out of the Courthouse annex due to its present condition. Cmr. Velasquez advised all department head and elected officials to be present at all Commissioners Court meetings.

Item No. 56      Adjournment

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to adjourn meeting. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.